having digital electronic exchanges on reliable media. There is plan to increase the switching capacity in four districts and all the five districts are planned to be brought on State-of-the-Art OFC media during the year 2003-04.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Due to insurgency in the State, progress of the work is slow.

(d) The concerned authorities are approached from time to time for necessary assistance.

Surrender/Disconnection of Land Line Telephones

1196. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has witnessed a decrease in a number of land lines during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of the telephone connections that have either been surrendered or disconnected in Delhi and Mumbai during the above said period; and

(c) whether decline in land line telephone connection of MTNL and BSNL is attributed to the poor service provided by these companies, and if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve their services in metros?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. During the year 2002-2003 BSNL and MTNL have added net 22.12 lakhs and 1.21 lakhs landlines respectively.

(b) No. of telephones surrendered/disconnected in Delhi and Mumbai during the year 2002-2003 are:

Delhi -1,51,558 and Mumbai-1,68,830

(c) No, Sir. Reasons for surrender/disconnection in landline telephone connection include switchover of subscriber from fixed line to mobile services and partially due to migration to other operators.

MTNL however, has initiated several measures to further improve their services as under:

* Strengthening of computerised fault reporting system.
* Reductions of subscribers loops length by installing more RSUs/ RLUs/CNEs/DLCs.
* Minimizing overhead wires by introducing 5 pair cables, wall DPs and wireless technology in the customer access network.
* Rehabilitation work in respect of leading in cables and rewiring of multi-storeyed buildings.
* Replacement of paper core underground cables by jelly filled cables/ Optical fibre cables with DLCs.
* Replacement of all electro-mechanical exchanges by digital exchanges.

Networking of Mobile Phone Service in J&K

1197. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is no networking for mobile phone service in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, by when mobile phone service would be made available in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (a Public Sector Undertaking), who is the only Licensee for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in Jammu & Kashmir Telecom Service Area, has not been granted clearance from SACFA (Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation) angle for its radio transmission sites necessary for provision of CMTS. BSNL have made plans to starts CMTS in Jammu and Kashmir Telecom Circle Service Areas during the current financial year subject to clearance of its radio transmission sites from SACFA angle.